

**A Proclamation to be submitted by  
Legislators Miller-Williams and Dixon**

**RE: Welcoming Mrs. Phylicia Rashad as Guest Speaker for Global Concepts Charter  
School First Annual Gala**

**WHEREAS**, Phylicia Rashad is an actress, director and pioneer in the arts and theatre industry, she was born in Houston, Texas and grew up in Mexico. She later graduated Magna Cum Laude from Howard University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre and pledged with the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Alpha Chapter; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Rashad began her career in theatre, she went on to star in the daytime drama One Life to Live and in the primetime series The Cosby Show. She also returned to the stage while continuing to work steadily on television. Throughout her career, Mrs. Rashad has starred in box office films and she is currently filming for the seventh Rocky movie which will be released later this year; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Rashad has been recognized for her achievements in television and theatre, she was the first African-American woman to be awarded the Antoinette Perry Award for Excellence in Theatre (Tony Award) for Best Performance by a Leading Actress in a Play in 2004. Other awards include the Drama Desk award for Best Actress in a Play; People's Choice Award for Favorite Female Performer in a television program; NAACP Image Award for Best Actress in a Comedy Series and for Outstanding Actress in a television movie; Dorothy I. Height Dreammaker Award; Muse Award for Outstanding Vision and Achievement; and a Theatrical Arts Award honoree earlier this year; and

**WHEREAS**, Phylicia Rashad has been active in the arts and theatre industry, her passion for the arts was influenced and encouraged by her mother, Pulitzer nominated writer and "Poet Laureate of Texas," Dr. Vivian Elizabeth Ayers, the first African-American to be given full faculty status at Rice University. Mrs. Rashad is also mother to two children William Lancelot "Billy" Bowles III and Condola Rashad.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to welcome Mrs. Phylicia Rashad to Erie County, to congratulate her on being selected as guest speaker for the Global Concepts Charter School's First Annual Gala, and to recognize her achievements in the arts and theatre industry.